

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).
2. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein an electronically activated, co-running rotary encoder roller (44) ends the reverse movement of the package band (22) at the preselected loop length (L).
3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein the loop length (L) is predetermined by measuring the stacked goods to be packaged (52), the data is entered and selectably stored for the digital control system (60).
4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 3, wherein the stacked goods to be packaged (52) are automatically measured at the beginning of the process.
5. (previously presented) Method according to claim 4, wherein necessary value corrections for the loop length (L) are entered and selectably stored.

6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein if the preselected loop length (L) is not obtained, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein, in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a maximum band tension is selected by the control system (60) is entered, and, in the event the maximum band tension is exceeded, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a minimum band tension is selected by the control system (60), is entered and, in the event of a repeated successive falling below the minimum band tension, a programmed-controlled shortening of the loop length (L) takes place.

9. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein the packaged band is a printed package band (22) positioned so as to be precisely repeatable with a printer's imprint control system.

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented) Method according to claim 12, wherein in addition to the preselected loop length (L), for the ending of the reverse movement of the package band (22), a minimum band

tension is selected by the control system (60), is entered and, in the event of a first instance of falling below the minimum band tension, the process is interrupted and a fault is indicated.

12. (currently amended) Method for banding stacked, soft goods to be packaged with a banding machine comprises:

guiding a package band around goods to be packaged;

pulling the guided package band onto the goods to be packaged in a reverse movement for tightening the package band around the stacked goods in response to a preselected control variable, wherein a preselection loop of the package band is pulled back to a preselected loop length with the aid of an electronic control system, wherein the preselected control variable is the preselected loop length rather than band tension; and
~~gluing or welding the~~

fixing the package band after the preselected loop length has been reached.